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Annual Report

on the Sanitary Condition of the Thorne Rural District . 1941

By

J. M. TAYLOR, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

THORNE

W. WRIGLEY AND SON, PRINTERS, MARKET PLACE

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Thorne Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health in Circular 2604, dated March 24th, 1942, the Annual Report is made as brief as possible. The various tables are in the forms prescribed by the Ministry.

The Birth Rate at 21·75 is slightly higher; and the Death Rate at 10·8 is also slightly up.

The Infantile Mortality Rate at 79·2 per 1,000 live births is also above last year's rate of 74·8.

The number of Diphtheria cases shows a fall from 110 to 94, but the incidence rate is still much above the rate for England. Preventive Inoculation has been carried out in the schools during the year.

This inoculation can be obtained free at all the Elementary Schools and Child Welfare Centres in the district; and also at the Medical Practitioners' Surgeries.

The Ministry of Health strongly advises all parents to avail themselves of this simple measure of protection against the most killing disease of children of school age. 494 children were immunised during 1941.

Yours obediently,

J. M. TAYLOR,

8th September, 1942 Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE THORNE RURAL DISTRICT FOR 1941

General Statistics relating to the Rural District

The Rural District comprises five civil parishes, and has an area of 38,419 acres.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population for the year 1941 is 30,020.

The total number of inhabited houses in the district at the end of 1941, according to the rate books, was 7,160.

The Rateable Value of the district is £117,011.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £433.

Vital Statistics

In considering the Birth, Death and other rates which have been calculated for 1941, it must be borne in mind that:—

(1) Non-Civilian Deaths are not included.

(2) That Deaths and Births occurring amongst persons temporarily residing in this district on account of the war are included in the local figures.

Births

The estimate of population supplied by the Registrar-General for calculating the birth rate is 30,020.

The total number of births during 1941 was 653.

Of these 321 were males and 332 were females.

Legitimate births numbered 622.

Of these legitimate births 305 were males and 317 females.

Illegitimate births numbered 31, 16 being males and 15 females.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 21·75.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the population for England is 14·2.

The total number of stillbirths was 24.

Of these 14 were males and 10 females; and all were legitimate.

The stillbirth rate for the district per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 35·4.

The stillbirth rate for the district per 1,000 population is 0·79.

Deaths

The total number of Deaths during 1941 was 325.

Of these 178 were males and 147 females.

The estimate of population to be used for calculation of the death rate is 30,020.

The actual or crude death rate for the district is 10 8 per 1,000 population.

No comparability factor is issued by the Registrar-General this year.

The death rate for England is 12·9.

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year

The total number was 55.

Of these 29 were males and 26 females.

25 males and 25 females were legitimate.

4 males and 1 female were illegitimate.

The death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births is 79·2.

The number of births used in making this estimate is 669.

The death rate for England is 59.

The death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births is 78·3.

The death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births is 161·2.

The following table gives the Infantile Death Rate for the last five years :—

1936	.....	78·5	per 1,000	births
1937	.....	92·4	,,	,,
1938	.....	61·9	,,	,,
1939	.....	77·4	,,	,,
1940	.....	74·8	,,	,,

26 of the deaths of infants were due to premature births and congenital abnormalities.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 34

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 3

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 7

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) 3

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:

From Sepsis, 1

Other causes, 0.

The death rate from puerperal causes per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 1·4

The death rate from puerperal causes per 1,000 live births is 1·4.

Causes of Death in the Thorne Rural District, as supplied by the Registrar-General

Causes of Death	M	F
All causes	178	147
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	0
Whooping Cough	3	4
Diphtheria	1	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	9	11
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	6
Syphilitic Diseases	1	0
Influenza	2	1
Measles	1	2
Cancer of Buccal Cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus	1	4
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	4
Cancer of Breast	0	1
Cancer of all other sites	15	8
Diabetes	1	1
Intfa-cranial vascular lesions	16	11
Heart Disease	34	23
Other Diseases of circulatory system	9	3
Bronchitis	12	7
Pneumonia	6	10
Other respiratory diseases	2	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	0
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	3	0
Appendicitis	3	1
Other Digestive Diseases	8	4
Nephritis	2	2
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	0	1
Other maternal causes	0	0
Premature Birth	2	3
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	9	12
Suicide	2	0
Road Traffic Accidents	7	1
Other violent causes	5	5
All other causes	17	21

Notifiable Diseases during the Year (other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	39	9	0
Diphtheria	94	89	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	6	1
Pneumonia	18	2	—
Erysipelas	9	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0
Dysentery	1	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	10	10	2

The following table gives a summary of the Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Ophthalmia Neonatorum) notified during the year, and arranged n age periods:

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Cerebro-spinal Fever
Age Periods						
0	—	—	1	—	—	—
1	—	1	1	—	—	2
2	2	2	—	—	—	—
3	1	6	—	—	—	1
4	3	7	—	—	—	1
5	24	48	4	1	—	1
10	8	23	—	—	—	3
15	1	7	4	—	4	1
25	—	—	2	—	4	—
35	—	—	2	3	—	1
45	—	—	2	2	—	—
65	—	—	2	3	1	—
And upwards						
	39	94	18	9	8	10

Diphtheria

The 94 cases were distributed amongst the parishes as follows:—

	No. of Cases
Thorne	38
Stainforth	39
Hatfield	16
Sykehouse	1
Fishlake	0

They occurred during the year as follows:

	No of Cases
January	9
February	9
March	6
April	2
May	7
June	6
July	5
August	8
September	15
October	14
November	6
December	7

The Diphtheria case rate for the district works out at 3·13 per 1,000 population, whereas the rate for England is 1·25.

The Scarlet Fever case rate for the district is 1·29 per 1,000 population, whereas England's rate is 1·47.

Measles and Whooping Cough

Under provisional regulations which came into force on October 23rd, 1939, Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable diseases. 98 cases of Measles were notified. There were 164 cases of Whooping Cough.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Of the 8 cases notified, 6 were treated in Edenfield Nursing Home, Doncaster, under arrangements made by the West Riding County Council.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations 1917

No vaccinations under these regulations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

Tuberculosis

The following table gives a summary of the cases notified during the year, also of the deaths, arranged in age periods:—

	New Cases				Deaths			
Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	3
5	1	0	5	1	1	0	1	1
15	6	4	0	1	2	4	0	3
25	6	1	0	1	2	6	0	0
35	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
45	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
And upwards 65	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	18	7	6	2	9	10	3	7

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

CASES:

Notified	Treated at home	Treated in Hospital	Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
1	1	0	1	0	0	0

If any medical practitioner wishes to have a case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum treated in hospital, all he has to do is to apply to the County Medical Officer who will arrange for the treatment.

School Closures

There were no school closures during the year, but several have been visited by the Sanitary Inspector for purposes of disinfection when cases of diphtheria have been notified from children attending them.

Water Supply

A bacteriological examination of the water supplied by the Thorne and District Water Company, in September 1941, gave results as follows:—

Bacteriological Analysis.—" Presumptive Bacillus Coli: None in 100 ml. of water. The examination shows that this water is satisfactory according to the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health."

Another examination of the water supplied in November 1941 gave a similar result:—

Bacteriological Analysis.—Presumptive Bacillus Coli: None in 100 ml. of water. The examination shows that the water is satisfactory according to the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Sewerage

No extension to the Council's sewers was made during 1941.

Camping Sites

One licence has been granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement

Four observations were made but no unsatisfactory conditions were found.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Eighteen houses were found to be infested with Bed Bugs. All were treated effectively with insecticides.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT

Mr. B. Woodley and Mr. Wm. Bell report as follows:

Dairies and Cowsheds, etc.

140 Wholesale Traders on the Register.
63 Retail Traders on the Register.
All Cowsheds are inspected twice a year under Articles 1 and 25 Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

Shops Act 1934

25 Shops inspected.

Common Lodging Houses

3 on Register.
All kept in satisfactory condition.

Canal Boats

188 on Register.
5 Inspected.
184 Boats in use.

Factories Act 1937

59 Factories in district.

House Scavenging

This is done by contract in the parishes of Thorne, Stainforth and Hatfield. It has been done satisfactorily, although labour and transport difficulties occurred, especially in Hatfield Parish.

Closet Accommodation in the District

No. of Box Closets, 150.
No. of Privies with Covered Middens, 981
No. of Water Closets, 5,265.

There were 4 conversions from box closets and privy middens to water closets during the year.

Bakehouses

9 Bakehouses on the Register.
All inspected during the year.

Slaughter Houses

There are no licensed slaughter houses at present.

Nuisances

Total number of Inspections during 1941, 86
Total number of Nuisances during 1941, 78.
Total number of Nuisances abated during 1941, 74.

Meat Inspection

The slaughtering of animals was prohibited as from 15th January 1940, and only emergency slaughtered animals have been inspected after that date.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There is one privately owned open-air swimming pool in Hatfield parish.

HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during 1941

1	State Aided	none
	(a) by the Local Authority	none
	(b) by Private Enterprise	none
	(Public Utility Societies, etc.)	
2	Without State Aid	none

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :*

1	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	55
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	59
2	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	nil
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	
	Houses	nil
	Caravans	nil
4	Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	nil

2. *Remedy of defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	37

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :*

(a)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	10
2	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	10
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
2	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	8
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

(c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
2	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil

(d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

1	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
2	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936 – Part IV – Overcrowding:*

(a)—1	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	nil
2	Number of families dwelling therein	nil
3	Number of persons dwelling therein	nil
(b)—	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)—1	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
2	Number of persons concerned in such cases	29
(d)—	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	nil